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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT

In the application of : P&G case 8786
Margaret Henderson Hasse : Confirmation No. 7943
Serial No. 09/993,988 : Group Art Unit 3761
Filed November 16, 2001 : Examiner Kidwell, Michele M.

For Tampon with Fluid Wicking
Overwrap with Skirt Portion

Proposed Amendment

Claim 1. (Proposed Amendment) A catamenial tampon comprising:

a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface,
said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;

said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to a second surface and an
insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;

a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second
surface of said absorbent material;

said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said
absorbent material to form a fluid wicking skirt portion;

said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the
compressed absorbent member; and

a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner region of said compressed absorbent member.

Claim 3. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.

Claim 4. A tampon according to Claim 3 wherein the ratio of the synthetic fibers to natural fibers is from about 90:10 to about 30:70.

Claim 6. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap is hydroentangled and comprises about 50% rayon and about 50% polyester.

Claim 7. A tampon according to Claim 10 wherein said skirt portion extends from about 5 mm to about 30 mm from said withdrawal end of said absorbent material.

Claim 9. (Proposed Amendment) A catamenial tampon comprising:

a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface,
said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;

said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to a second surface and an
insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;

a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second
surface of said absorbent material;

said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said
absorbent material to form a fluid wicking skirt portion;

said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member;

a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner region of said compressed absorbent member; and

a withdrawal means for removal of said tampon attached to said compressed absorbent member and extending beyond at least said withdrawal end.

Claim 11. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap is 100% rayon.

Claim 13. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap comprises a 50% rayon 50% polypropylene thermally bonded blend.

Claim 14. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said skirt portion extends from 2 mm to 20 mm from said withdrawal end of said absorbent material.

Claim 15. A tampon according to Claim 14 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.

Claim 16 -20. (Canceled)

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